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Full-Time Kindergarten
Superintendent Linda McCulloch

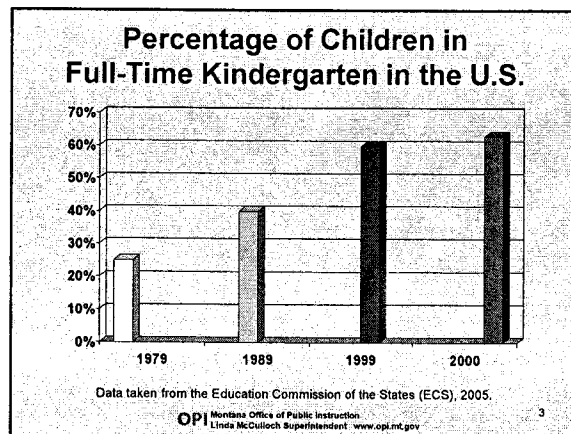
Montana State Capitol
Helena, MT
January 10, 2007

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Kindergarten Today

- Nationally, 63% of all kindergarten students attend Full-Time Kindergarten (six hours a day, five days a week)
- 98% of all children in the U.S. attend at least half-day kindergarten
- The State of Montana currently provides half-time ANB funding for all kindergarten students
- Only about 28% of Montana kindergarten students have the option of attending a full-time program

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Montana Proposal for Full-Time Kindergarten

- Increase academic success for all students
- Parental Control
- Local Control

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Academic Success

If a child isn't reading at grade level by the end of third grade it is very difficult and very expensive to catch up in later grades.

Up through the third grade, kids are learning to read. After third grade, kids are reading to learn.

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Academic Benefits:

- Greater progress in reading, math and general learning skills
- Significant gains in social and emotional development
- Higher scores on achievement tests
- Reduced behavioral problems
- Significantly stronger academic gains in kindergarten year than their half-day counterparts
- Positive effect on short and long-term student achievement
- Students exhibit more independent learning, classroom involvement and productivity

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Economic Benefits

- A significantly higher level of schooling completed
- Significantly higher monthly earnings at age 27
- Significantly higher percentages of home ownership
- A significantly lower percentage receiving social services
- Significantly fewer arrests by age 27
- Supports working families

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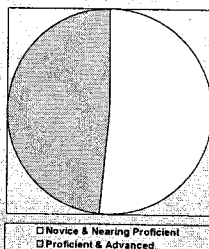
At-Risk/Dropout Prevention

- Significantly helps to close academic achievement gaps for both low-income and minority children
- Poor and minority students especially benefit from participation in full-time program
- Significantly higher report of homework completed at age 15
- For low-income children, the longer school day provides increased opportunities for good nutrition

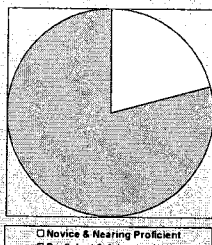
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2004-05 CRT Test Results: Reading scores of 4th Grade Students



American Indian Students



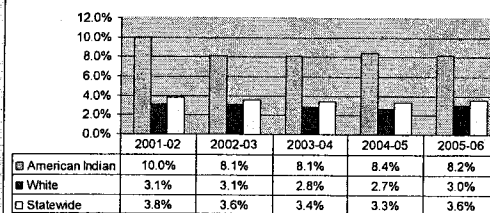
White students

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Dropout Rates

Dropout Rates for Select Race/Ethnicity
Categories for Grades 9-12
2000-01 to 2005-06



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Cost Savings to Schools

- Reduction of high cost students by fewer grade retentions and special education placements
- Cost savings in elimination of mid-day buses
- Savings to local taxpayers for school districts that already have Full-Time Kindergarten

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Student Adjustment

- Students adjust to longer days in school without any major difficulties
- Prepares students for successful transition to first grade
- NO detrimental effects to attending Full-Time Kindergarten
- Students have time to focus on activities, reflect on activities, and transition between activities

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Montana Bill Overview - SB123:

- Authorize the state full payment for each student enrolled in Full-Time Kindergarten instead of the half payment they currently receive.
- The cost is estimated at \$26 million for the 2009 biennium and \$10 million in one-time only startup costs for districts to overcome initial implementation barriers.
- Not a new program – a voluntary enhancement of an existing program.

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Montana Bill Overview - SB123 Parental Control

- Voluntary Enrollment
- Full-Time Kindergarten is pro-family
- Parents will decide if their child is ready for full-time, half-time or no kindergarten at all
- Preserve parental rights. Parents are not required to enroll their children in public school until they reach the age of 7.
- Supports working families

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Montana Bill Overview - SB123 Local Control

- Maintains local control
- Schools will not be required to offer Full-Time Kindergarten
- Local School Boards have the option to provide Full-Time Kindergarten based on the district's budget, facilities, staff and local needs

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Now is the time for Full-Time Kindergarten in Montana.

*It's about
145,416 public school kids!*

SB 123:
Academic Success
Parental Control
Local Control

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